

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) is monitoring the movement of the Elk River spill, as it flows into and along the Ohio River. The chemical 4-methycyclohexane methnol, known as MCHM, was released into the Elk River, which flows into the Kanawha River, which flows into the Ohio River.

MCHM has been detected in the Ohio River. It was first detected in the Ohio River on Sunday, January 12th at noon. ORSANCO is coordinating with multiple organizations, including Cincinnati Water Works, Northern Kentucky Water, Kentucky Division of Water, US Coast Guard, West Virginia American Water and others to monitor the location of the spill. Field crew members at these organizations are taking water samples of the Ohio River to determine the concentration of the chemical. The sample information is used by these organizations to present the most accurate understanding of the Elk River spill and to protect drinking water use.

*****As of noon today, January 13, 2014, the chemical's odor was detected at Greenup Locks and Dam, which is located at Ohio River Mile 341.0. Cincinnati is located at Ohio River Mile 463.5.***

The mayor of Cincinnati, John Cranley, will hold a press conference later today to discuss how the Elk River spill will affect the Cincinnati area. If residents in the Cincinnati area have questions about their water, they may contact Cincinnati Water Works at 513-591-7700.